

REMARKS

Applicant has noted that claims 10, 12 and 20-31 have been withdrawn from consideration because of the Examiner's ruling of a non-elective species of the invention. Also, applicant has canceled claims 1-9, 11, 13-19 and 32-35 without prejudice to the subject matter thereof and added new claims 36-54 to improve the form of the claims and to clearly distinguish over the references of record.

With respect to the Examiner's objection to the drawings, applicant is submitting a new FIG. 11 wherein the reference numeral 23, which is used to designate a gap, has been changed to numeral 55. Also, the reference character 42 has been objected to in FIG. 25C. However, the applicant is submitting new drawings, FIGS. 25B and 25C which are properly shaded to distinguish between annular parts 4 and 5 and the cooperation of the threaded member or means 10 that is positioned on the outer perimeter of annular part 4 and the inner surface of annular part 5. It is respectfully submitted the amended FIGS. 11 and 25B and 25C, as now presented, clearly overcome the Examiner's objection to the drawings.

Additionally, applicant has amended and presented an abstract in narrative form eliminating the objections to the term "tire", "tire rim" and others. Lines 18-20 of the specification on page 6 clarifies the reference to character 23 and the newly submitted specification, as presented, corrects the grammatical errors and unclear language of the originally filed specification. The substitute specification as now submitted does not

contain any new matter. Applicant has added the language of originally filed claim 19 and the language of originally filed claim 33 to the specification, as well as pointed out that FIG. 13 illustrates a side retention member 18 which is engagable with the annular projection member 26 extending axially from the spare inner wheel 3. It is submitted that the title and specification, as now presented, overcome the Examiner's objections.

Examiner has objected to the original filed claims under Section 112 as failing to distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as his invention. Accordingly, applicant has added a new claim 36 which clearly recites the present claimed invention. The demountable tire rim assembly is for use with a vehicle and includes a spare inner wheel and is adapted to receive a tire mounted thereon for engagement with the ground. The tire rim assembly includes a tire rim body comprised of two complimentary annular parts which provide side holding rims structurally arranged to engage a tire mounted on the assembly. The two complimentary annular parts are provided with reciprocal coupling means structurally arranged to permit engagement of the annular parts to one another to provide support for the spare inner wheel and to permit engagement of the spare inner wheel with the ground when in the run flat condition. Specifically, the reciprocal coupling means includes a plurality of threaded sectors on the edge of the perimeter of the annular parts of the tire rim assembly with one of the annular parts having an elevated stop member associated with the threaded sectors and a recessed non-threaded sector associated with the threaded sectors. Thus, when the threaded and non-threaded sectors

having the same width are inserted one into the other, a threading rotational movement therebetween fixes the annular parts to one another. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the revised independent claim 36 overcomes the Examiner's Section 112 objections to the original filed claims. Also, the term "spend thrift" as used in the original filed specification and claim refers to the threading and rotating movements between the annular parts to fix the annular parts together.

The Examiner has rejected original filed claim 1 as being fully anticipated by *Trebaol* U.S. Patent 4,424,842. The *Trebaol* reference shows a vehicle wheel comprised of two circular wheel halves, each having a portion of a rim and parts 32 secured together by coupling means 26 and 27 by screws and nuts 26, 27 located on the flange of the wheel halves. However, *Trebaol* does not remotely describe a coupling means which includes a plurality of threaded sectors on the edge of the perimeter of the annular parts of the tire rim assembly as specifically recited and required by applicant's claim 36. Also, the requirement that the structure of one of the annular parts include an elevated stop member associated with the threaded sectors and a recessed non-threaded sector associated with the threaded sector such that when the complimentary annular parts are inserted one into the other, a threading rotating movement therebetween fixes the annular parts to one another.

It is respectfully submitted that the present claimed invention and unique coupling means recited in applicant's claim 36 is distinguishable over the *Trebaol* patent. *Trebaol*

utilizes and describes only semi-circular wheel halves having fixedly mounted tread parts 30, 32. Additionally, *Trebaol* includes semi-circular tread parts 30 and 32 which are integral with the wheel halves 10 and 12. The wheel halves 10 and 12 are merely bolted together to permit the two half shells including the inner and spare inner wheel half shell together.

In contra-distinction, the present invention contemplates a demountable tire rim assembly which includes two complimentary annular parts which include a specific threaded sector and recessed non-threaded sector configuration which permits the rotation, the locking and attachment of the two annular parts together. Such a structure supports a spare inner wheel as desired. Thus, the prior art merely teaches the use of threaded bolts to secure the circular wheel halves together and does not remotely contemplate or teach the specific reciprocal coupling means which includes a plurality of threaded sectors on the edge perimeter of the annular parts to permit the annular parts to be fixed together. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that applicant's claim 36 is patentable over the *Trebaol* reference.

In paragraph 30, the Examiner has rejected original claim 1, now new claim 36, as being fully anticipated by *Smith, et al.* U.S. Patent 4,573,509. Again, *Smith* describes a run flat device which is comprised of three parts, a base 10, a moveable flange 18 and a lock plate 14 which are secured together to provide the run flat device. Again, *Smith* does not remotely teach or suggest the use of a demountable tire rim assembly having two

complimentary annular parts having a plurality of threaded sectors on the edge perimeter of the annular parts with an elevated stop member associated with the threaded sectors and recessed non-threaded sectors to permit threading rotating movement between the annular parts to fix the annular parts together. Thus, it is also not seen how *Smith et al.* remotely anticipates the specific language of claim 36 and the reciprocal coupling means recited in claim 36. It is submitted that claim 36 is allowable over *Smith, et al.*

Paragraphs 31-38 summarize obvious type rejections based upon *Trebaol, Smith et al., Harris, Riley and Hollerith* of certain of the dependent claims in this application. As has been discussed specifically above, with respect to independent claim 36, none of the prior art relied upon by the Examiner remotely teaches or suggests the reciprocal coupling means that as specifically recited and claimed in claim 36. Because certain of the claims such as claim 3, 15-16 and 32 have been cancelled in the specification, the remaining claims in the case, claims 37-54 are each dependent upon independent claim 36. Because none of the prior art references specifically claim reciprocal coupling means which results in the fixing of the two annular parts to one another, it is respectfully submitted that claims 37-54 are in condition for allowance.

Applicant has reviewed the other prior art made of record, but can find no teaching of the claimed invention.

Finally, applicant's attorney submits that the original filed Declaration is not defective because the applicant declared that he reviewed and understood the

specification as filed, which included claims 1-35. However, a Supplemental Declaration will be supplied if required.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 36-54 are in condition for allowance, and early allowance of the same is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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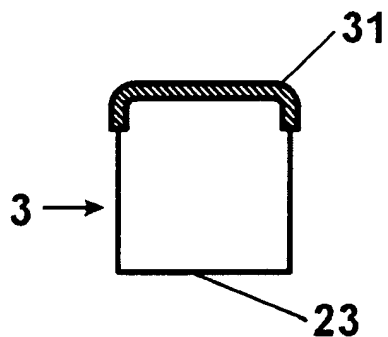


FIG. 8

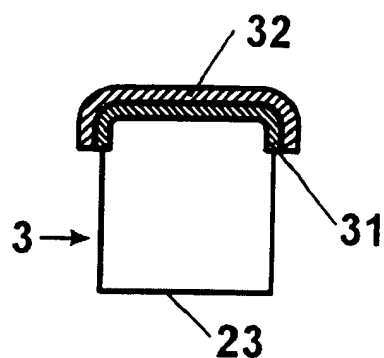


FIG. 9

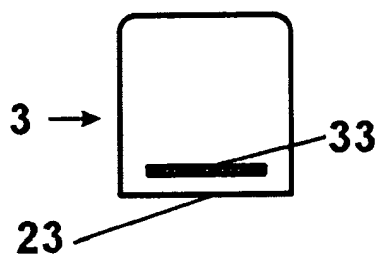
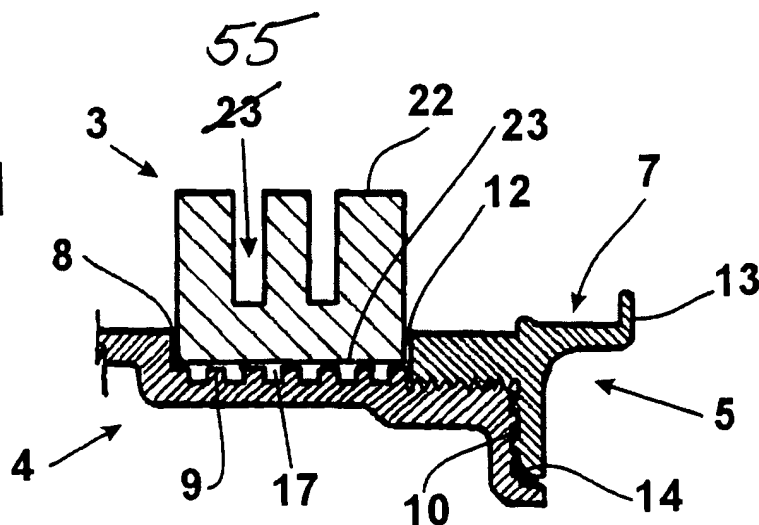


FIG. 10

FIG. 11



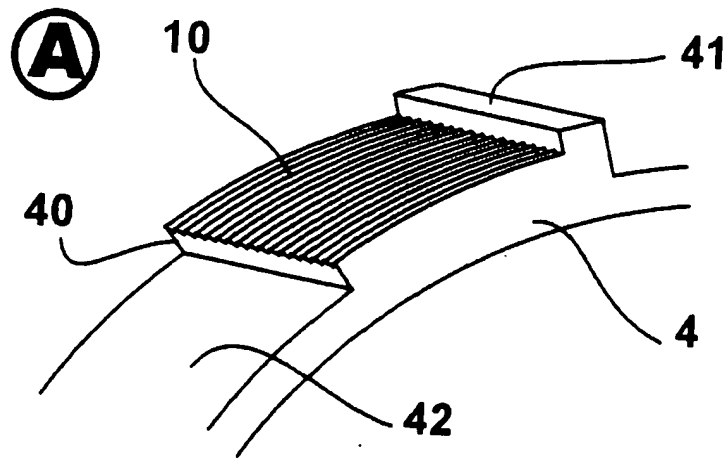


FIG. 25

